

Appendix II

FEMA's Potential Fire Hazard Severity Forms

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has developed a number of guides and procedures to assist communities, counties, and states with assessing risk for a variety of natural hazards, including wildfire. One approach that FEMA recommends is to assess communities using a variety of standardized evaluation criteria. The forms on the following pages detail the assessments completed for a variety of communities within Adams County using these standardized forms and their criteria.

The first evaluation completed for these communities is the **Fire Hazard Severity** determination. This form uses a variety of criteria in order to make a categorical ranking for each community. The Fire Hazard Severity Table (below) determines fire hazard severity based on the standard FEMA uses to compare (for example) Washington County, Idaho, with another county in Idaho, or any other state. Communities may have more than one classification depending on the degrees of the slope and fuel models. For example, if someone were to observe an average of five critical fire weather days per year in a given area, observe heavy fuel, and less than 40° slopes, then that community is in a high fire hazard area. If the average number of days of critical fire weather per year increases above eight, that community would be in an extreme fire hazard area. The table is subjective, but allows comparisons between communities.

Fire Hazard Severity

Fuel Classification	Critical Fire Weather Frequency								
	< 1 Day/Year			2 to 7 Days/Year			> 8 Days/Year		
	Slope (%)			Slope (%)			Slope (%)		
	< 40	41-60	> 61	< 40	41-60	> 61	< 40	41-60	> 61
Light Fuel	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	H
Medium Fuel	M	M	H	H	H	H	E	E	E
Heavy Fuel	H	H	H	H	E	E	E	E	E

Source: Urban Wildland Interface Code: 2000

M = Moderate hazard H = High hazard E = Extreme hazard



(from FEMA's "Understanding Your Risks; identifying hazards and estimating losses", August 2001, FEMA 386-2) State and local mitigation planning how-to-guide.)

Critical Fire Weather Frequency (CFWF) is not recorded by agencies operating in the state of Idaho. Red Flag Warnings posted by the US Forest Service and other agencies is roughly analogous to the CFWF but not identical. Daily readings from weather service stations was accessed to determine a county wide ranking of 2 to 7 days per year average. In any given year, the actual number of days observed may be more or less.

Slope was determined from an interactive GIS layer by creating a polygon around a community representing the area that most likely encompasses the immediate threat area to the community

from a wildfire. The average slope for that polygon was calculated along with statistics on this average. Using recommendations from FEMA publications, the steepest 75% of the region was used to represent the slope impact on wildfires. For this reason, the category for slope will generally appear to be steeper than observations on the ground might otherwise indicate.

Fuel classification was determined from the Fire Prone Landscapes assessment described in the Plan. This assessment created data ranked from 0 (low) to 100 (high). As was done with the slope calculation, fire prone landscapes scores were averaged for the impact area and statistics were determined for the amount of variation. The highest 95% of values were used to calculate the impact of fuels on wildland fires around communities. Resulting values were divided by 10 to create a scale from 1 to 10 for this analysis. These values (0-10) were used in combination with the ground cover (rangeland or forestland) to assign light, medium, and high categories. Light fuels were assigned to rangeland areas regardless of the Fire Prone Landscape rating. Medium fuels were forestland cover types with a Fire Prone Landscapes ranking from 0 to 5, with Heavy fuels assigned to forestlands with a score of 6 and higher.

A final classification was selected based on this information with the lowest category on the form Moderate, then to High and finally Extreme. The FEMA forms do not have a category for Low. This score was then reported on the header of the Wildfire Hazard Rating Form.

The **Wildfire Hazard Rating Form** differs from the **Fire Hazard Severity** form in that the latter describes the environmental factors potentially affecting a community or subdivision, while the former describes actual factors leading to the ability of residents and emergency service personnel to respond to the event of a wildfire. The Wildfire Hazard Rating Form is completed using subjective observations of a community. These ratings will change over time and should be updated as needed to better reflect changes in each community.

Cambridge

FEMA's Fire Hazard Severity Criteria									
Fuel Classification	Critical Fire Weather Frequency								
	< 1 Day/Year			2 to 7 Days/Year			>8 Days/Year		
	Slope %			Slope %			Slope %		
	<40%	41-60%	>61%	<40%	41-60%	>61%	<40%	41-60%	>61%
Light Fuel	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	H
Medium Fuel	M	M	H	H	H	H	E	E	E
Heavy Fuel	H	H	H	H	E	E	E	E	E

M = Moderate Hazard, H = High Hazard, E = Extreme Hazard

Source: Urban Wildland Interface Code: 2000

This Community:	Cambridge
CFW Frequency:	2 to 7 Days/Year
Slopes:	41-60%
FPL Score:	5
Landcover:	Rangeland
Cat:	Light Fuel

Fire Prone Landscape Results	
Min	8
Average	35.63
Max	72
STD	16.3
Upper 95% CI	51.93
Score	5

Slope Analysis (%)	
Min	0.0
Average	17.7
Max	100.0
STD	18.4
Upper 75% CI	48.5
Category	41-60%

Fire Hazard Severity Rating FEMA Hazard Rating System
→ M ←

Wildfire Hazard Rating Form
Washington County, Idaho
Fire Mitigation Plan

Name of Community: Cambridge **Date:** 1-Aug-03

Landcover: Rangeland

Number of Structures: 690

WUI Condition: Occluded Condition

Overall Wildfire Hazard Rating: Low Hazard

Potential Fire Hazard Severity: Moderate Hazard

Comments: Cambridge is a large urban community located in the northern end of the county. It is comprised of rangeland fuels on hillslopes rising above the community. Rural fire protection is excellent but travel distances for fire fighting equipment can be extreme. As this area grows increased resources may be needed.

Evaluator: Duman

Points	Points
A. Community Design	
1. Ingress / Egress	
Three or more primary roads1	1
Two or more primary roads2	
One Road3	
One-way-in, one-way-out5	
2. Width of Primary roads	
20 feet or more1	1
20 feet or less3	
3. Accessibility	
Road grade 5% or less1	1
Road grade 5% or more3	
Road grade 10% or more5	
4. Secondary Road Terminus	
Loop roads, cul-de-sacs with outside turning radius of 45 feet or greater1	
Cul-de-sac turnaround radius is less than 45 feet2	2
Dead-end roads 200 feet or less in length3	
Dead-end roads greater than 200 feet long5	
5. Average lot size	
10 acres or larger1	
≥ 1 acre, < 10 acres3	
≤ 1 acre5	5
6. Street Signs	
Signs with names and numbers1	
Signs with names present2	2
No Street Signs5	
B. Vegetation	
1. Fire Prone Landscape Rating	
1 - 10 scale 1-10	5
2. Defensible Space	
70% or more of site1	1
≥ 30%, ≤ 70%3	
≤ 30% of site5	
C. Topography	
1. Predominant Slope	
≤ 8%1	1
> 8% ≤ 20%4	
> 20% ≤ 30%7	
> 30%10	
D. Roofing Material	
Class A Rated1	
Class B Rated3	3
Class C Rated5	
Non-Rated Roofing material10	
E. Fire Protection - Water Source	
500 GPM Hydrant within 1,000'1	
Hydrant farther than 1,000' or draft site2	
Water Source within 20 minutes or less, round trip5	5
Water source farther than 20 minutes, but less than 45 minutes7	
Water source farther than 45 minutes round trip10	
F. Existing Building Construction Materials	
Non-combustible siding/deck1	
Non-combustible siding BUT a combustible deck5	5
Combustible siding and deck10	
G. Utilities	
All underground utilities1	
One underground, one above ground3	
All above ground5	5
H. Fire Protection Services	
Good Rural Department Coverage1	1
Limited Rural Department Coverage5	
No Rural Department Coverage10	
Total Score For Community	
	38
Rating Scale	
Moderate Hazard	45-65
High Hazard	66-79
Extreme Hazard	80+

Source: Urban Wildland Interface Code 2000, FEMA, version 1.0 August 2001 with modification by Northwest Management, Inc.

Midvale

FEMA's Fire Hazard Severity Criteria									
Fuel Classification	Critical Fire Weather Frequency								
	< 1 Day/Year			2 to 7 Days/Year			>8 Days/Year		
	Slope %			Slope %			Slope %		
	<40%	41-60%	>61%	<40%	41-60%	>61%	<40%	41-60%	>61%
Light Fuel	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	H
Medium Fuel	M	M	H	H	H	H	E	E	E
Heavy Fuel	H	H	H	H	E	E	E	E	E

M = Moderate Hazard, H = High Hazard, E = Extreme Hazard

Source: Urban Wildland Interface Code: 2000

This Community:	Midvale
CFW Frequency:	2 to 7 Days/Year
Slopes:	>61%
FPL Score:	6
Landcover:	Rangeland

Fire Prone Landscape Results	
Min	8
Average	41.06
Max	72
STD	16.46
Upper 95% CI	57.52
Score	6

Slope Analysis (%)	
Min	0.0
Average	22.7
Max	100.0
STD	26.9
Upper 75% CI	67.7
Category	>61%

Fire Hazard Severity Rating FEMA Hazard Rating System
→ M ←

Wildfire Hazard Rating Form
Washington County, Idaho
Fire Mitigation Plan

Name of Community: Midvale **Date:** 1-Aug-03

Landcover: Rangeland **Number of Structures:** 625

WUI Condition: Occluded Condition

Overall Wildfire Hazard Rating: Low Hazard **Potential Fire Hazard Severity: Moderate Hazard**

Comments: Range fires igniting along the Highway could threaten outlying homes and other structures.

There are also several abandoned farmhouses and lone hay barns along the outskirts of this community which could complicate fire fighting efforts. In general, this community is well protected.

Evaluator: Duman

Points	Points																		
A. Community Design																			
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Source: Urban Wildland Interface Code 2000, FEMA, version 1.0 August 2001 with modification by Northwest Management, Inc.

Weiser

FEMA's Fire Hazard Severity Criteria									
Fuel Classification	Critical Fire Weather Frequency								
	< 1 Day/Year			2 to 7 Days/Year			>8 Days/Year		
	Slope %			Slope %			Slope %		
	<40%	41-60%	>61%	<40%	41-60%	>61%	<40%	41-60%	>61%
Light Fuel	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	H
Medium Fuel	M	M	H	H	H	H	E	E	E
Heavy Fuel	H	H	H	H	E	E	E	E	E

M = Moderate Hazard, H = High Hazard, E = Extreme Hazard

Source: Urban Wildland Interface Code: 2000

This Community:	Weiser
CFW Frequency:	2 to 7 Days/Year
Slopes:	>61%
FPL Score:	6
Landcover:	Cat: Light Fuel Rangeland

Fire Prone Landscape Results	
Min	4
Average	42.61
Max	73
STD	20.85
Upper 95% CI	63.46
Score	6.3

Slope Analysis (%)	
Min	0.0
Average	38.4
Max	100.0
STD	44.2
Upper 75% CI	112.3
Category	>61%

Fire Hazard Severity Rating FEMA Hazard Rating System
→ M ←

Wildfire Hazard Rating Form
Washington County, Idaho
Fire Mitigation Plan

Name of Community: Weiser **Date:** 1-Aug-03

Landcover: Rangeland **Number of Structures:** 3087

WUI Condition: Urban Condition

Overall Wildfire Hazard Rating: Low Hazard **Potential Fire Hazard Severity: Moderate Hazard**

Comments: Although the range to the northeast of town presents a moderate risk of wildfire, the primary risk to the community is due to the potential for agricultural annual burning to escape. In addition, the railroad and the nearby mill represent some potential ignition sources.

Evaluator: Duman

	Points		Points						
A. Community Design		C. Topography							
1. Ingress / Egress		1. Predominant Slope							
Three or more primary roads1	<u>1</u>	≤ 8%1	<u>1</u>						
Two or more primary roads2	<u> </u>	> 8% ≤ 20%4	<u> </u>						
One Road3	<u> </u>	> 20% ≤ 30%7	<u> </u>						
One-way-in, one-way-out5	<u> </u>	> 30%10	<u> </u>						
2. Width of Primary roads		D. Roofing Material							
20 feet or more1	<u>1</u>	Class A Rated1	<u>1</u>						
20 feet or less3	<u> </u>	Class B Rated3	<u> </u>						
3. Accessibility		Class C Rated5	<u> </u>						
Road grade 5% or less1	<u>1</u>	Non-Rated Roofing material10	<u> </u>						
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Road grade 10% or more5	<u> </u>	500 GPM Hydrant within 1,000'1	<u>1</u>						
4. Secondary Road Terminus		Hydrant farther than 1,000' or							
Loop roads, cul-de-sacs with		draft site2	<u> </u>						
outside turning radius of 45 feet		Water Source within 20 minutes or							
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Dead-end roads greater		F. Existing Building Construction Materials							
than 200 feet long5	<u> </u>	Non-combustible siding/deck1	<u>1</u>						
5. Average lot size		Non-combustible siding							
10 acres or larger1	<u> </u>	BUT a combustible deck5	<u> </u>						
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1 - 10 scale 1-10	<u>6</u>	No Rural Department Coverage10	<u> </u>						
2. Defensible Space		Total Score For Community 28							
70% or more of site1	<u>1</u>	Rating Scale <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Moderate Hazard</td> <td>45-65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>High Hazard</td> <td>66-79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Extreme Hazard</td> <td>80+</td> </tr> </table>		Moderate Hazard	45-65	High Hazard	66-79	Extreme Hazard	80+
Moderate Hazard	45-65								
High Hazard	66-79								
Extreme Hazard	80+								
≥ 30%, ≤ 70%3	<u> </u>								
≤ 30% of site5	<u> </u>								

Source: Urban Wildland Interface Code 2000, FEMA, version 1.0 August 2001 with modification by Northwest Management, Inc.